



Monthly Newsletter of First United Methodist Church of Bridgeport

Methodist Connection

December 2012

Upcoming Events

12.16

Christmas Musical & Play

12.16

Kidzone Christmas Party

12.18

Christmas Basket Assembly

12.23

Praise Team Musical

12.24

Christmas Eve Services

From the Pastor's Pen


Wow! What a busy fall we have had! It seems like every week for a long while we've had something major going on. But I guess that is the way of the church these days.

I hope you are participating in our Advent study, "A Different Kind of Christmas." It is hard not to participate at some level. It is our preaching theme for the season, most of our Sunday school classes are studying it, and we even have a new class in the Fellowship Hall that is studying it.

These church wide studies are important because they get us all on the same page for a season and give us the opportunity to visit about what we are studying across generations and beyond whatever class we are attending.

To me the most significant thing about this study is the challenge to "Live and Give like Jesus." In our secular dominated society it is easy to get caught up in all of the celebration so that it focuses on what "we" want or think "we need." Sometimes we are in danger of forgetting to really celebrate Christ—after all it is his birthday we are celebrating.

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Mission News

Salvation Army Bell Ringing Opportunities

This year our church is responsible for Bell ringing the following dates at these locations. The sign-up board is in the Church Concourse or call Tamara @ 683-2780 for more info.

Please sign-up to ring the funds go to the Salvation Army Unit housed in our church and help many families in Wise County.

Market Place ~ Thurs. Nov. 29th 3pm-7pm

Wal-mart ~ Sat. Dec. 1st 8am-8pm
Tue. Dec 18th 8am-8pm

Brookshire's ~ Sat. Dec. 15th 9am-2pm
Fri. Dec. 21st 3pm-7pm

Christmas Baskets

If you would like to volunteer to help make Christmas food Baskets on Tuesday Dec. 18th please contact Tammy McGuire (940)577-1170

Anniversaries

12/01 Mr. & Mrs. Mike Simpson
12/06 Mr. & Mrs. Dale Davis
12/10 Mr. & Mrs. Bob Cantrell
12/18 Mr. & Mrs. Mike Kline
12/22 Mr. & Mrs. Doyle Bryant
12/23 Mr. & Mrs. Paul Diffenderfer
12/30 Mr. & Mrs. Eugene Schulte

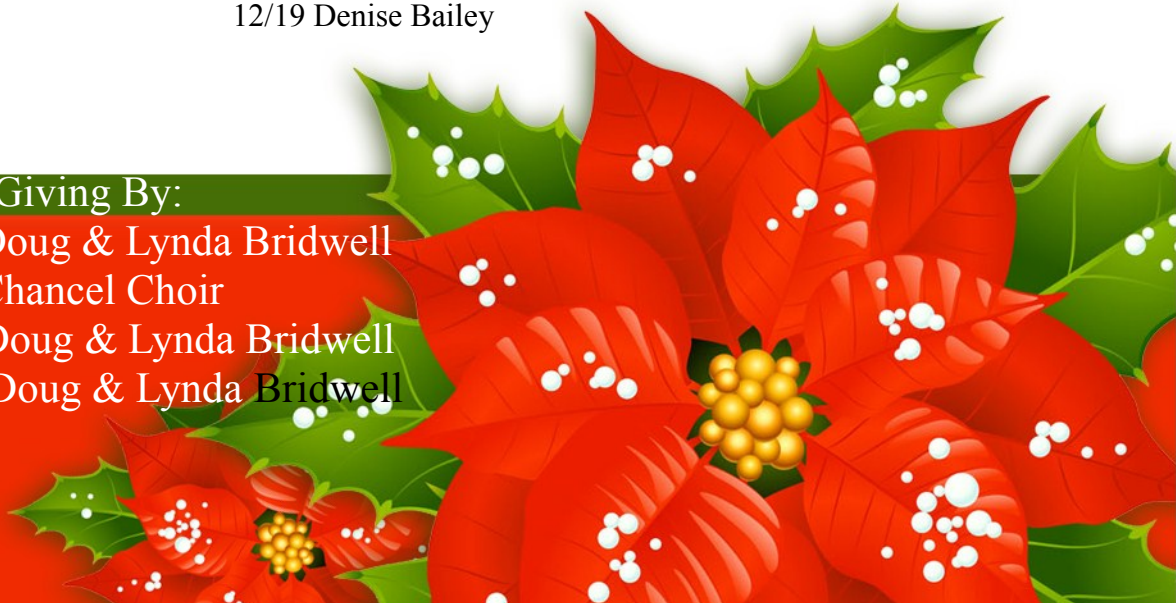
BIRTHDAYS


12/01 Stacy Kline
12/03 Kellen Lopez
12/05 Cleo Boulware
12/07 Pam Worlow
12/07 Jerry Coffman
12/10 Leanna Brewer
12/14 Collin Moody
12/15 Art Pierce
12/16 Donna Stowers
12/17 Sandra Walker
12/18 Linda Coffman
12/19 Denise Bailey

12/20 Skylar Stowe
12/23 Josh Winebrinner
12/24 Betty Schulte
12/25 Dorothy Lynch
12/25 Shelly Moody
12/26 Eunice Rutledge
12/26 Dan Selz
12/27 Carol Cantrell
12/28 Kayla McComis
12/30 Stella Green
12/30 Shandalyn McKinley

Memorials

In Memory of:	Giving By:
Dene Boggs	Doug & Lynda Bridwell
James Hudson	Chancel Choir
Kemper Walker	Doug & Lynda Bridwell
JR Eubanks	Doug & Lynda Bridwell





I will praise You,
for I am fearfully and
wonderfully made;
Marvelous are Your
works, And that my soul
knows very well.

From the Pastor's Pen

continued

More than that it is the amazing reality that God became man and lived among us, showed us how to live for him, died for our sin, and gave us the assurance of eternal life with him.

So, part of the goal of this study is to help us refocus beyond ourselves, to celebrate Christ in ways that are pleasing to him, and to intentionally do more for others than we do for our own immediate family. To this end our entire Christmas Eve offering will be a missions offering this year—it will go to “Bridgeport Gives Back” which will have its second year of serving our community this spring. Our focus is primarily on Bridgeport because that is where our church is located, where many of us live, work, go to school and/or shop. Of course not all of us do all of those things here, for our membership comes from a 12-15 mile radius including much of Wise County. Bridgeport is the focus of this mission opportunity.

I encourage you in this season to seek out ways to intentionally serve others. Do something out of the ordinary for you. Explore new ministry. Exalt Christ.

See you Sunday in the place where God's Son is served!

Yours in Christ,

Bro. David (home: 940-683-1724;
davidrucker@fumcbridgeport.org)



New Designated Account

We now have a new designated account for giving. It is called “New Parsonage” and the purpose of it is to collect enough funds over time that with the sale of the current parsonage we can purchase a new parsonage that meets the conference standards without having to go into debt. Of course our primary goal is to retire our current debt, but this account is now in place for when persons want to give for this purpose.

Wednesday Night Dinners

We will resume our Wednesday night activities on Jan. 16th and will need volunteers to prepare and serve our Church Family dinner. If you are interested in volunteering one or more weeks please call Tamara in the office 940-683-2780



Scheduled Christmas Events

A Special Holiday Service

Sunday, Dec. 16th

the Chancel Choir, Children's and Youth will present

"His Very Own Star"

We will have One Service this day at
10:00 am with Sunday School at 9:00 am

Please join us for this Special event

**The Praise Team will present
A special Christmas program
On Sunday Dec. 23rd during
our 11:00 worship time.**



*This year our Christmas
Eve Offering will go to
"Bridgeport Gives Back"*

*Please help us support this very special
mission in our community.*

Children's Corner

On Wednesday Dec. 19th the kidzone will have a
Christmas party from 3:30-5 pm

We will have a Christmas book gift
exchange.

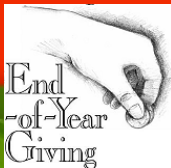
Also everyone wishing to be an Acolyte for the
coming year training, will begin in January for
more info see

Brittany Whitehead or contact her at

*Please Join Us....
Candles, Carols, and Communion
Dec. 24th Christmas Eve
5:00 & 9:00 p.m.
Nursery Provided*



The last day to get donations in for 2012 will
be Monday Dec. 31st. If you need
to make special arrangements
please call Tamara in the office
at 940-683-2780





Christmas Eve Services Schedule

Please Join Us

Candles, Carols, and Communion

Dec. 24th Christmas Eve

5:00 p.m. Contemporary Service & 9:00 p.m. Traditional Service

Nursery Provided

First United Methodist Church
PO Box 237 / 608 17th St.
Bridgeport, TX 76426
Pastor: Bro. David Rucker
Phone # 940-683-2780